



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT

To: Interested Parties

From: MFWP Wolf Program Coordinator, Carolyn Sime

Subject: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information, May 31 – June 6, 2008

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf – livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available on each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2007 annual report) can be found at:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf/default.html>.

Wolf Monitoring Activities

Bradley had been trying to trap up the East Fork of the Bitterroot. The weather deteriorated and traps were pulled. Also – no success for Brooks Creek and traps were pulled.

Seasonal Kristina Boyd and Volunteer Alan Whitehead conducted ground surveys in NWMT for Ashley Lake pack (some sign, but not enough to establish a trap line at this time). They also investigated a cluster of wolf reports in the Pleasant Valley area and found coyote activity.

FWP's loss is Nez Perce Tribe's gain – FWP volunteer Kari Holder will go to work for the Tribe this summer. Thanks for all your efforts over the last 6 months!

Wolf - Livestock Activities

On the 4th, a livestock owner in Meagher County killed a wolf he saw in the act of chasing his cattle which were pinned in the corner of his pasture. The incident was reported right away and investigated by Ross and the area game wardens who concluded that it was lawful under the state's defense of property statute. No livestock were injured or killed.

On the 5th, a livestock producer near Acton contacted FWP about a dead calf. FWP referred the call to WS (as per the state's management plan). WS conducted the investigation and determined that it had died of natural causes and was fed on by coyotes.

On the 5th, a livestock producer shot at a wolf to harass it out of his cattle on private land – believed to a member of the Jack Creek pack. The owner reported the incident to FWP as required by Montana law. The wolf was not injured.

Outreach and Education Activities

On the 5th, Bradley met with the Landowner Advisory Committee with the Blackfoot Challenge.

On the 6th / 7th, Sime attended the annual meeting of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. She participated during a panel discussion after a showing of the documentary film “Wolves in Paradise” on Friday afternoon. On the 7th, she gave an update on the Montana wolf program. About 225 people attended the talk. George Edwards, Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator also participated during the panel discussion on the 6th and attended on the 7th.

Research Activities

Nothing to report.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

See Wolf – Livestock Activities above.

Other

Wolf Litigation: On May 29th, Judge Malloy heard oral arguments in regards to a request for a preliminary injunction (would place the species back under federal regulations) while the main northern Rockies delisting litigation proceeds. As of Friday June 6, no ruling had been issued.

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To learn more about Montana's recovered wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP at: www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 458-0106 or in eastern Montana / Columbus area at: 322-4303. Or call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT.